

From: Robert MacGrogan
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/7/01 12:54pm
Subject: Comments on Proposed Settlement

To Whom it May Concern:

I would like to comment on the proposed settlement in the Microsoft antitrust case.

The proposed settlement in its current form is toothless and in many ways actually rewards Microsoft for their misconduct. The trial judge and the appeals court both found that Microsoft engaged in illegal monopolistic practices. In other words, Microsoft committed criminal acts. They broke the law. For this they must be punished.

It is important to keep in mind in discussing any settlements with Microsoft that this is a company that has consistently thumbed it's nose at the US justice system. They have violated previous court orders and agreements. And every time they violate such agreements, they use evasive legalistic tactics to avoid accountability.

It is high time to make Microsoft accountable.

The ideal punishment of a monopoly is to break it up. Perhaps this idea is not politically feasible today. Baring this approach, Microsoft should be forced to pay in an amount that will actually affect their bottom line.

The proposal that Microsoft pay for their crimes by giving "free" Microsoft software to schools is absolutely ridiculous. The school system is one of the few places where Microsoft's monopoly does not extend. Are we going to punish them by allowing them to extend their monopoly using shrewd marketing tactics? The software will only be "free" for five years under the current proposal. After this, schools must pay.

There is a better way.

The Department of Justice should implement the proposal made by Red Hat to provide free software to all the schools in the country. Forever. Microsoft can then use the money that would have gone to providing "free" software to provide more hardware. This is a truly winning proposal. Our schools will win by getting much more than they would have under the original settlement. The public will win through increased diversity and competition in the world of PC software.

Microsoft will not win under Red Hat's proposal, though. They will actually have to pay much more because the free software they would be giving to schools would actually cost them nothing. And they will not be able to extend their monopoly into yet another sector. But since Microsoft is the

criminal in this proceeding, it is fitting that they be punished.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Robert MacGrogan
406 Milledge Ave., SE
Atlanta, GA 30312
404-524-4593

Get your FREE download of MSN Explorer at <http://explorer.msn.com/intl.asp>